

SENATE BILL 1240

By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to the school year.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3004, is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) Each public school system shall maintain a term of no less than one thousand three hundred (1300) hours to be scheduled in no more than two hundred (200) days, divided as follows:

(1) A minimum of one thousand one hundred seventy (1170) hours in classroom instruction, to be scheduled in no more than one hundred eighty (180) days for classroom instruction;

(2) Ten (10) days for vacation with pay for a two hundred-day or a one thousand three hundred-hour term, eleven (11) days for vacation with pay for a two hundred twenty-day or a one thousand four hundred thirty-hour term, and twelve (12) days for vacation with pay for a two hundred forty-day or a one thousand five hundred seventy-nine and one-half-hour term;

(3) Thirty-two and one-half (32½) hours or five (5) days for in-service education with school districts having the option of requiring up to sixteen and one-quarter (16¼) hours to be completed via on-line learning as long as proof of proficiency and completion is documented;

(4) Six and one-half (6½) hours or one (1) day for parent-teacher conferences;

(5) Twenty-six (26) hours or four (4) other days as designated by the local board of education upon the recommendation of the director of schools with the option for the school board to allow up to thirteen (13) hours to be completed via on-line learning as long as proof of proficiency and completion is documented; and

(6) In the event of a natural disaster or serious outbreaks of illness affecting or endangering students or staff during a school year, the commissioner of education may waive for that school year the requirement under subdivision (a)(1) of a minimum of one thousand one hundred seventy (1170) instructional hours to be scheduled in no more than one hundred eighty (180) days, if a request is submitted to the commissioner by the director of schools. The waiver request may be for the entire LEA or for individual schools within the LEA.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3004, is further amended by deleting subsection (f) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(f)

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "year-round school" means a school in which the students attending receive eight (8) or fewer consecutive weeks of summer vacation.

(2) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and every school year thereafter, LEAs and all schools receiving any funds from the state shall commence the school year no earlier than the fourth Monday in August; unless the school operated under a year-round school calendar during the 2012-2013 school year.

(3) LEAs that in any consecutive five-year period average more than ten (10) canceled school days per year due to inclement weather, natural disaster, or serious outbreak of contagious illness may begin the school year earlier than the fourth Monday in August for the school year immediately following the five-year

period. The LEA, in that school year, may start school before the fourth Monday in August, but no more than one-half ($1/2$) the average number of days missed in the five-year period. If such calculations results in a fraction, then the number of days that the LEA may start school before the fourth Monday in August shall be rounded up to the next whole number.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3004, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

(i) Public charter schools are exempt from the requirements of subsections (a) and (f).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6002, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead the following:

(b) The commissioner of education is directed to establish yearly dates for the administration of the grades three through eight (3-8) achievement tests that provide sufficient time for LEAs to schedule the needed instructional hours before the testing window for achievement tests begins, while maintaining compliance with all relevant federal law.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.